" To stop which scruple, let this breefe suffice:
" It is no *pamper'd glutton* we present,
" Nor *aged councellour to youthful sinne*:
" But one, whose vertue shone above the rest,
" A valiant martyr, and a vertuous peere;
" In whose true faith and loyalty exprest
" Unto his soveraigne, and his countries weale,
" We strive to pay that tribute of our love,
" Your favours merit: let faire truth be grac'd,
" Since forg'd invention former time defac'd."

STEEVENS

The piece to which Nash alludes is the old anonymous play of King Henry V. which had been exhibited before the year 1588. Tarlton, the comedian, who performed in it both the parts of the Chief Justice and the Clown, having died in that year. It was entered on the Stationers' books in 1594, and I believe printed in that year, though I have not met with a copy of that date. An edition of it, printed in 1598, is in my collection. See also the notes at the end of Henry IV. Part I. vol. xvi. p. 410.

The play before us appears to have been written in the middle of the year 1599. See An Attempt to ascertain the Order of Shakspeare's Plays, vol. ii.

The old King Henry V. may be found among Six old Plays on which Shakspeare founded, &c. printed by S. Leacroft, 1778.

MALONE

Of this play there were three quarto editions in our author's life-time, 1600, 1602, and 1608. In all of them the choruses are omitted, and the play commences with the fourth speech of the second scene.

BOSWELL.